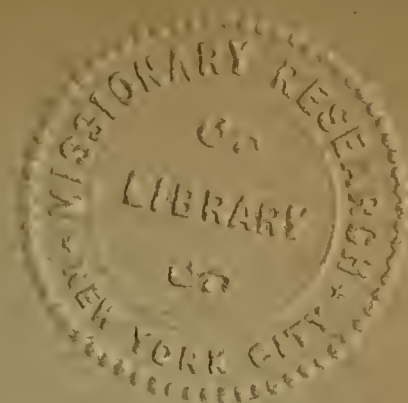


Pam. misc.



Hints on



Junior and . . .

Sunday School . .



Church Missionary
Associations . . .

New and Revised Edition.

London:

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY, SALISBURY SQUARE.

1899.



The First Edition of this Paper, signed "E.S.," was published in 1879. It has since been corrected in various particulars.

NOTE.—The word "Junior" is now being generally substituted for "Juvenile" in the title of Associations for Young People, who do not like the latter word. These Associations should include all who are not old enough to join the Gleaners' Union, *i.e.*, boys and girls up to the age of 17 or 18. There is, of course, no reference to such organizations as "Junior Clergy Unions."

Hints on Junior and Sunday School Church Missionary Associations.

MOST Missionary work in heathen countries begins with the young. Alexander Duff and Robert Noble, seeking an entrance into the caste-protected fortress of Hindu Society, began with the boys. So it was with the Santals. So it was in the old city of Gaza, and in the giant cities of Bashan. So it was in Africa. Samuel Crowther posted his native teachers at station after station on the Niger, and the first step at each place was to open a school and get the chiefs to send their sons. Mackay and Ashe spent much of their time in U-ganda in teaching boys, and some of those boys became martyrs whose devotion kindles enthusiasm all the world over.

And as in Missionary operations abroad, so in Missionary contributions at home. In many a parish, where claims are many and means are small, it is the children who raise the bulk of the money subscribed for the spread of the Gospel. Many a devoted worker and generous giver of mature years can look back to the days when he was a child, and spake as a child, and thought as a child, and trace, under God, the source of his interest in the Society, and its holy enterprise, which has been growing with his growth, and strengthening with his strength, to the Children's Meeting, the *Juvenile Instructor* (now *The Children's World*), and the Junior Missionary Box; and if he has since put away these childish things, it has only been to take up

other methods of helping the great Cause. "It is nearly forty years," said Bishop Thorold, at the Anniversary Meeting in 1879, "since, as a boy, I sent in my first humble contribution to the Society," and many of the Society's oldest friends could testify to a like experience.

Is it not therefore natural and right that, when open doors all over the world cannot be entered, and even the natural growth of existing missions is cramped for lack of adequate funds, the Committee should ask the question, Cannot the children, who are in so many places our best friends, come forward with loving hearts and zealous hands to the help of the Church Missionary Society? Are not the inspired words as true now as when the Psalmist uttered them—"Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast Thou ordained strength?" Strenuous exertions are necessary if the Society is to follow the leadings of God's Providence, and respond to the loud calls for extension. Many friends are ready and desirous to make these exertions; but they scarcely know in what direction to move. Perhaps the easiest and most fruitful work that can be undertaken is that of organizing Junior and Sunday School Associations; and, large as is the aggregate sum now raised by these agencies, that sum might unquestionably, with very little effort indeed, be materially increased: as is seen from the fact that in one Rural Deanery in London, the children have, during the seven years, raised respectively £983, £998, £985, £1,015, £1,008, £869, and £859. Some hints upon the subject may therefore not be unwelcome.

Considerable diversity exists in the proportion of contributions raised by the young in different parishes. In not a few, even, this fruitful field is entirely unworked: there are no juvenile contributions at all. For example, in a recent Annual Report, two churches in one neighbourhood may be noticed which raised in that year £196 and

£152 respectively ; and, as far as appears, no part of this came from the gifts or the efforts of children. On the other hand, here is one parish, where out of nearly £33 all except 10s. was from the Sunday Schools ; and here is another where, out of £193, just £100 was raised by the Junior Association.

There is also much diversity in the organization employed to collect money from young people, or by their means. In some places the Junior Association has its treasurer, its secretary, its regular meetings, its separate funds. In others, though the children's Missionary Boxes are put under the heading "Junior Association," the Association does not seem to be regularly organized. In others again, although a very few Missionary Boxes appear to be held by children, and perhaps a small contribution is acknowledged from the Sunday School, there is nothing of the nature of a Junior Association at all. Thus in one parish, which raised £184, the only indication of Junior work is that £6 14s. was raised by "Missionary Boxes," some of which are apparently held by little girls : and similar cases are numerous.

It is quite true that the form of organization is of secondary importance ; the true principle in Christian effort of every kind is, not the machinery but the man. Find the worker, and the work will be done somehow. Humble, prayerful diligence will effect more than the most carefully planned rules. Still, a good organization is a real help ; and if conceived and planned, begun, continued, and ended in the Lord, it will be a true blessing both to those who work it and to those for whose benefit it is worked.

The value of a properly organized Association consists (1) in its tendency to foster the sense of actual Membership in those who are regular subscribers, (2) in its continuous corporate life, independent of the coming and going of individual workers. A regular member of any institution has

a far more lively personal interest in it than a mere occasional contributor: and a body of members can, if President, Treasurer, or Secretary be removed, appoint a new one and go on as before.

Every Local Auxiliary, therefore, supporting the Society, whether it be a Parochial Association or a larger one covering a town or district, should have a Junior Association attached to it. And while the Constitution of each Association will necessarily vary with varying local circumstances, three important features should be kept in view:—

1. A permanent staff of workers, where practicable, to include President, Treasurer, Secretary, Collectors; and in large Associations, a Committee.

2. Regular and frequent Meetings.

3. A systematic attempt to reach, not only Sunday Schools and Day Schools of all classes, but institutions of all kinds in which young people of either sex, and of any rank whatever, are gathered together.

It is further suggested that to each Junior Association should be attached a "Publication Agent," who will take charge of the list of subscribers to the Society's Publications, endeavour to extend their sale, and to see that they reach those who are entitled to be supplied gratuitously.

A question will arise in many places—What is the relation of the Sunday School to the Junior Association? The growing sense of the value of Sunday Schools, the large amounts raised by many of them for the Missionary Cause, and particularly the still larger amounts they might easily raise if well worked, render the question an important one.

On this point, however, no rigid rule can be laid down which shall be applicable to all parishes. In one parish there may be no middle or upper class population, and here the Junior Association will naturally be altogether worked in and from the Sunday School, or at least have the Sunday School as its centre. In another parish the popula-

tion may be wholly middle and upper class, and there may be no Sunday School at all, or only a *quasi* Sunday School for the children of the congregation. Still, in most cases there are both classes of young people ; and the usual plan then is to have a general Junior Association, through which the Sunday School contributions are paid, without any distinct organization within the Sunday School itself. While individual children of the congregation are enrolled as "members," the Sunday School is simply regarded as an irregular adjunct of the Association without any attempt being made to enrol the Sunday Scholars as individuals. Nor can this be easily done by a Secretary unconnected with the Sunday School. It is well, therefore, to have an organized Association within the Sunday School, with its own officers and enrolled members, which will, as a rule, be a branch of the Junior Association.

Passing from the organization to the actual working of Junior and Sunday School Associations, three questions present themselves respecting (1) the diffusion of information, (2) the collection of money, (3) the disposal of the money collected.

I.—How can Missionary information best be imparted ?

That it should be imparted is most important. It is not well that children should support they know not what. And it is not only their contributions that are wanted, but their interest and sympathy—which will often also awaken the interest of parents and friends, and which will secure a continuous supply of labourers in time to come, not only collectors at home, but even Missionaries in the field.

Information may be given (1) by publications, (2) by meetings (including addresses to schools or institutions).

(1) For Junior members of the Society a token of membership is provided by means of the gratuitous *Church Missionary Quarterly Token*, to which every regular subscriber of one farthing per week, one penny per month, threepence per

quarter, or more, is entitled.* This should be regularly supplied by the Secretary of the Junior Association. It will be valued the more if it is given only to those strictly entitled to it; and (as far as possible) the exact number required, and no more, should be previously ordered from the Church Missionary House. The children should be further encouraged to purchase *The Children's World* ($\frac{1}{2}$ d. monthly), which is intended to be the recognized organ of the Junior Associations, and the medium of reporting their proceedings and acknowledging their efforts. Boys and girls who have reached an age to prefer a more advanced publication, should take in *Awake!* ($\frac{1}{2}$ d. monthly), or the *Church Missionary Gleaner* (1d. monthly). These three periodicals are not supplied gratuitously by the Society, but must be ordered from the Church Missionary House, or through the booksellers. Some Associations subscribe for them, and supply their members according to rules of their own.

It is strongly recommended that each number, as it comes out, be read, or at least carefully looked through, by the Sunday School Teacher or the Junior Association Secretary, before it is given out to the subscribers. The periodicals should not be regarded as mere childish picture books to be hastily distributed, but as bringing news respecting Missions and Missionaries already known and valued. They will often be found to contain letters from, or intelligence of, the particular Mission described to the children at a recent meeting, or pictures illustrative of it. If the attention of the subscribers is drawn to these references, interest in the successive numbers will be much fostered.

The Society's larger periodical, the *Church Missionary Intelligencer* (6d. monthly), may also be here mentioned, as Secretaries of Associations and others who desire to be

* There is now a card of membership, price 4/- per 100, for those who belong to Junior Associations registered at Church Missionary House. Application to be made to the Rev. C. D. Snell.

fully acquainted with the Society's work, should by all means take it in.

(2) *Meetings* are of different kinds :—

(a) Every Junior Association should have its Annual General Meeting. In most cases, this will naturally be in the evening ; certainly where the members include elder boys and girls in Sunday Schools and Bible Classes who cannot attend in the day-time. A proper Report should be presented by the Secretary and addresses given. For this meeting the Society will be glad to provide a deputation if possible.

(b) Quarterly or even Monthly Meetings should be held for the Junior Association proper, comprising the children of the upper and middle classes. In most cases, these are best in the afternoon or early evening. If held in a drawing-room or (in summer) on a lawn, they are the more attractive. It is a good plan for invitations* to be sent by means of post-cards to the families in the congregation ; also to private boarding schools, for each of which (writes a lady secretary of large experience in this branch of the work) seats should be reserved, that the children of one school may sit together. Some of the most successful of these meetings are those where the clergyman always takes them himself, carefully reading up for his address beforehand. Where this cannot be there ought—in the towns at all events—to be no difficulty in obtaining good local speakers ; and occasionally a passing deputation from the Society may be secured. Gatherings of children can be advantageously taken by ladies.

(c) For the Sunday School, at least for town Sunday Schools, special plans should be formed. A Quarterly (or, if this is not possible, Half-Yearly) Missionary Sunday should be appointed, sometimes for an Address in

* A blank form of invitation is now issued, copies of which can be had on application to the Church Missionary House.

the School, sometimes for a Service in Church (which latter will reach the non-Sunday School members of the Junior Association as well). For these addresses a deputation should not be expected—at all events very rarely. The clergy, the superintendent, and the elder teachers should give them.

The effective working of this plan will be much facilitated if the schools of such parishes as support the Society in a town or other convenient area will combine to fix a simultaneous Quarterly (or Half-Yearly) Missionary Sunday. The addresses which have been prepared for a particular school can then be given also at other schools. Thus, let us suppose that Mr. A.—, Superintendent or Teacher in St. J.—'s School, prepares an address (say) on Tinnevely, or on the life of Mrs. Hinderer. On the first Quarterly Sunday he gives this to his own school. On the next Quarterly Sunday, he goes by arrangement to St. M.—'s School, and gives it there; and on the third Sunday, to St. P.—'s School for the same purpose. Meanwhile, Mr. B.—, of St. M.—'s School has prepared an address on Japan, or on Bishop Crowther. This he gives at his own school on the first Sunday, at St. P.—'s on the second, and at St. J.—'s on the third. It is believed that in this way a most efficient band of address-givers might be gradually created, which would largely increase the intelligent interest taken in the Society's work, and at the same time save the Society not a little trouble and expense in finding deputations. Sometimes the address might take the form of a Sermon in Church by one of the clergy; and exchanges of such sermons might also be made.*

(d) Monthly or quarterly meetings of collectors, *i.e.*, the holders of Boxes or Cards, are held in some places, and

* Since the above was written, the plan described has been largely developed in London by the C.M.S. Lay Workers' Union. See its Annual Reports.

are decidedly useful. They can be made an occasion for special prayer, for a Missionary Bible Reading, for the reading of Missionary letters, &c.

(e) Addresses in private schools or institutions. Such addresses will often be welcomed where the children would not be allowed to attend ordinary meetings outside.

(f) Missionary Magic Lanterns are both attractive and instructive, and the Society has excellent slides illustrating all of its Missions, which can be borrowed on payment of the expenses of carriage. There are two special sets for use at meetings of children. Admission should always be by ticket, and in some cases a small charge (say 1d. up to 6d. or 1s.) may be made, and the members admitted at half-price.

Missionary diagrams, pictures, and curiosities can of course be exhibited at any of the meetings, and will be found very useful.* Yet they should not be allowed to become indispensable. Some of the most interesting and really useful addresses are given without any such aids. And it is most important not to suffer attention to be so engrossed by the external manners and customs of the Hindus or Chinese, that the realities of their spiritual destitution and of the power of the Gospel upon the hearts and lives of the converts shall be in danger of being forgotten. Even in descriptions of heathen idolatry caution is necessary. Nothing is easier than to raise a laugh by a graphic account of an Indian superstition or African fetish-worship, or by showing some grotesque image; but our object should rather be to awaken sympathy with the victims of such delusions, and to call forth prayer and effort on their behalf.

* Arrangements have been made by the Society to lend diagrams, maps, slides, curiosities, &c., to local friends. Application to be made to the Loan Department, Church Missionary House.

II.—How can the money be best collected ?

(a) By Collections at the meetings and services.

(b) By Sales of Work, Missionary Christmas Trees, &c. These give opportunities for the girls to *work* for the Missionary Cause ; and there are ways in which boys also can help.

It would be impossible in the limits of this paper to give detailed suggestions respecting agencies of this kind or examples of success. Almost every Association that employs them has plans of its own. Besides the ordinary sales of work, &c., some adopt most ingenious devices for awakening interest and insuring success. Now it is a Missionary Ship, then a Missionary Hive, then a Missionary Bower. In one rural parish, a good sum is raised by a Missionary Flower Show—an excellent idea. It need scarcely be said that the organization of such methods of collecting as these, as well as of girls' working parties, &c., affords admirable opportunities for the work and influence of Christian ladies. Concerning sales, a lady writes:—
“ They should be conducted in a manner consistent with the Spirit of the Gospel ; no raffling or false means of gaining money should be allowed, but only simple buying and selling. A sale,” she adds, “ has been conducted in this way for fourteen years in connexion with a Junior Association, producing in that period a total sum of £1,550. It is always opened with prayer and praise, and an address upon the work of the day is made to harmonize with this commencement.” Ingenuity is not confined to Associations ; individual members lay many things under consideration ; here we find Missionary Canaries, there a Missionary Pig, here a Missionary Apple-tree, there Missionary Hop-poles, and again, a Missionary Mangle.

(c) By Missionary Boxes. These are a most fruitful agency. £38,000 was in 1897-8 collected by their means for the Church Missionary Society. In one parish,

(in 1877), no less than 180 boxes were in use, which produced £179, or just £1 a-piece on an average. But such a result, or indeed any satisfactory result, can be gained only by careful and systematic management. Boxes should never be given out wholesale. The name and address of the child should be written on the label, and also entered in the Secretary's book. A Register for this purpose is supplied by the Society. All boxes should be called in quarterly, or at most half-yearly. If the opening can take place in the holder's presence, and at (or rather before) a meeting, it will be more thought of. After the money is taken out, the box should be fastened up again, and the amount collected entered on the new label.

A Missionary Box in the home may itself be a Missionary. It is a standing witness for God; and a constant reminder of His Gospel and His Work. One active friend recommends a special Missionary Box in each family for Thank-offerings, in addition to the ordinary box. His experience is that the two boxes help one another. (See further, the Society's "Hints on Missionary Boxes.")

(*d*) By Collecting Cards or Books. If worked with equally systematic care these may be as fruitful as boxes.

(*e*) In the Sunday School, by Weekly Collections. In some schools, a box stands on the table for occasional contributions; in others, each class has a box for the same purpose. In the former case, the result will be very small; in the latter, larger but not what it might be. The scholars should be invited to become regular subscribers of however small a sum weekly or monthly. They *have money*, and are generally quite willing to give it in this way, if encouraged; and to do this more effectually the teacher should also, regularly and at the same time, give a trifle (say a penny) himself. Every name and every contribution in a class should be entered in the teacher's class-book; and the Secretary (generally a junior teacher) should enter in his

general book, every Sunday, the amount given by each *class*, the total from the school being announced every week. The money may be dropped into a Class Missionary Box, to be opened quarterly; or it may be paid at once to the Secretary, boxes being reserved for individual scholars, who take them home. This latter plan obviates the risk of theft, when boxes are left in the school cupboard. In any case, the amounts collected by the several classes should be announced quarterly. Large sums may be raised, without effort, by some such system as this.

One great advantage of regular subscriptions is that they foster the sense of membership. The children should not be mere givers of occasional half-pence; they should be *members of the Association*, and, through that, of the Church Missionary Society itself. This sense of membership will do more than anything else to promote the continuance of interest in the Missionary Cause as the children grow up.

III.—How should the money collected be disposed of?

In some parishes the Junior contributions are partly or wholly devoted to some special object, such as the support of a cot in a Hospital, or of a child in a Mission Boarding School. It is contended that children take more interest in such objects than in the general work of the Evangelization of the world. But—

1. That interest often does not *last*, because the child supported is lost sight of—as it inevitably must be in many cases.

2. Even if the interest does last, it is kept in a very narrow channel; whereas support of the general funds means help *to every Mission*, and when in lectures and addresses, Africa, India, China, &c., are successively brought before the children, they feel that they have a share in that particular work.

3. It has been well observed that such interest is “not what we really seek to develop. The Lord has bidden us

preach the Gospel to every creature in a great and sin-stricken world, whereas this system narrows their love and zeal for souls to one little child or one small village. Besides which, it creates and cultivates a desire for what can be recognized by sense rather than for what should be sought and received in faith; and the heart, too, naturally craves for something visible and tangible, whether it be in worship or in work."

4. The greater interest attaching to the general funds is plainly proved by the fact that those Sunday Schools and Junior Associations which support them raise the largest sums.

5. It should also be observed that money raised for private objects is not a contribution to the Church Missionary Society, and does not make the giver a member.

It is not, however, desired that help given to individual Missionaries—between whom and the parish or school there may perhaps be some link of personal connexion—should be withdrawn; but it is better, as a rule, that the regular subscriptions go to the general funds, and that special offerings be made for the special object. In any case it should be distinctly understood, that every penny dropped into the Church Missionary Society's Boxes *belongs to the Society*, and cannot properly be diverted from its own funds.

Care should be taken that the offerings of the young should be clearly distinguished in the list of contributions from the gifts of adults, being entered under the heading "Junior Association" or "Sunday School Association."

Three remarks may close this paper.

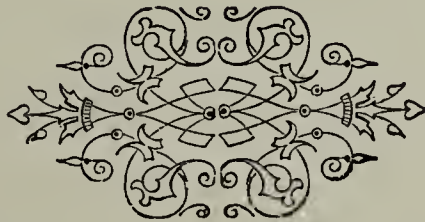
1. In the work of Junior and Sunday School Missionary Associations, let not the spiritual interests of the children themselves be forgotten. We ask them to help in sending the Gospel to the Heathen; but they need the Gospel themselves. Now in two ways, the work this paper is designed to promote will assist the faithful parent, or friend, or

teacher to draw young souls to Christ. (a) In Missionary addresses, &c., man's need of a Saviour, and the power and love of the Lord Jesus should be leading topics, and the narratives and other information be so given as to illustrate these and other great spiritual truths. And it may be that a child's first desire after true religion may, through the grace of the Holy Ghost, be awakened by what he hears of true religion in the heart of the Negro or the Red Indian. (b) In ordinary Christian teaching, as for instance in Sunday School lessons, what anecdotes or illustrations can be found more appropriate and telling than those furnished by Missionary annals? Africa, India, China, can supply narratives of godly boys and girls far more truly interesting than the imaginary "good little boy whose name was Willie," who figures so often in religious teaching.

2. Let our entire dependence upon the blessing of God for all success in Missionary work, whether at home or abroad, be continually insisted on. Let children be taught to know that prayer is a real thing; not a piece of formal etiquette for the opening of a meeting, but as having power to "move the Hand that moves the world." It is a good plan to have a special prayer at the *close* of a Meeting, on behalf of the particular Missions which have been described. And let praying boys and girls—*there are such*—be invited to lay before the Lord the Association they belong to, and their own work in connexion with it.

3. The reflex influence of these Associations upon those who work them is an additional element in their value. Especially is this the case in Sunday Schools. Many a good Missionary began his labours in the Master's vineyard as a Sunday School Teacher; and not a few gained in the Sunday School that knowledge of and love for the work in the foreign field which impelled them to devote their own lives to it. There have been cases of young men being drawn to it through having had to do one of those things

which this paper recommends—prepare and deliver a Missionary address in his own school. It is hoped, therefore, that the adoption of some of the foregoing suggestions may result, not only in a real and permanent increase in the juvenile contributions to the Society, but in the calling forth of some from amongst the teachers and workers, as well as from amongst the children, for the Lord's service in distant lands. The Church Missionary Society needs also a continual supply of true and hearty friends at home. "Our fathers, where are they?" How can their ranks be better filled up than by enlisting in the Cause the young men and women of our congregations? and how can these be better secured than by setting them to work in its behalf among the children of all classes? One result of the more general and more vigorous working of Juvenile and Sunday School Associations will most surely be the fulfilment to those who work them of that blessed promise, "He that watereth others shall be watered also himself;" and then "Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth."



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